

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing filaments from an optically anisotropic spinning solution comprising extruding the spinning solution through a spinneret comprising a spinning field with a plurality of spinning orifices into a coagulation bath through a slot or diaphragm, the edges of the slot or diaphragm being formed by plates with upper sides and lower sides, the upper side of each plate being defined as the side having the shortest distance to the spinning field, wherein a line through the center of the spinning field and perpendicular to the upper sides is located at a distance (d) from a parallel line through the center of the slot or diaphragm, wherein ~~the projection of~~ the slot or diaphragm has substantially the same size and shape as ~~the projection of~~ the spinning field, and wherein the plane of the upper side of one of the plates has a shorter distance to the center of the spinning field than the plane of the upper side of the other of the plates, and the line through the center of the spinning field has a smaller distance to the edge of one of the plates than to the edge of the other of the plates, and wherein the slot or diaphragm is positioned at the bottom of the coagulation bath.

2. (Currently Amended) An air gap spinning device comprising a spinneret comprising a spinning field with a plurality of spinning orifices, and a slot or diaphragm with edges formed by plates with upper sides and lower sides, the upper side of each plate being defined as the side having the shortest distance to the spinning field, wherein a line through a center of the spinning field and perpendicular to the upper sides has a distance (d) from a parallel line through the center of the slot or diaphragm, wherein ~~the projection of~~ the slot or diaphragm has substantially the same size and shape as ~~the projection of~~ the spinning field, and wherein the plane of the upper side of one of the plates has the shorter distance to the

center of the spinning field than the plane of an upper side of the other of the plates, and the line through the center of the spinning field has a smaller distance to the edge of the plate of which the upper side has the longest distance to the center of the spinning field than to the edge of the other of the plates, and wherein the slot or diaphragm is positioned at the bottom of the coagulation bath.

3. (Previously Presented) The air gap spinning device of claim 2, wherein the thickness of each of the plates is independently about 0.5 to 5 mm.

4. (Previously Presented) The air gap spinning device of claim 2, wherein the distance (d) between the line through the center of the spinning field and the parallel line through the center of the slot or diaphragm is about 0.4 to 50 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) The air gap spinning device of claim 2, wherein the distance (d) between the line through the center of the spinning field and the parallel line through the center of the slot or diaphragm is about 1 to 2 mm.

6. (Previously Presented) The air gap spinning device of claim 2, wherein the thickness of each of the plates is about the same as the distance(d) between the line through the center of the spinning field and the parallel line through the center of the slot or diaphragm.

7. (Currently Amended) The air gap spinning device of claim 2, wherein ~~the projection of both the spinning field and the slot or diaphragm have a rectangular shape, and wherein the slot or diaphragm has a greater length than the projection of the spinning field and is narrower in width~~ a smaller width and is longer than the spinning field.